

Soviet view of detente: as the international atmosphere best suited to maximize Soviet power and security and its influence abroad.

- no intent to end rivalry between east and west but to
- set prudent limits on rivalry in nuclear age and to
- give Soviets greater power maneuverability.

At least as much a choice as a necessity:

- avoid nuclear war
- to manage local crises
- Chinese hostility
- Western capital and technology
- consolidate hegemony over Eastern Europe
- Recognition for Soviet Superpower status.
- Inhibit western military programs while providing as much flexibility for their own.

Problems at home and abroad:

- internal discipline in relaxed international atmosphere
- Erosion of Soviet control over Eastern Europe
- Complicated problem in the international communist movement.

Brezhnev and Politburo still firmly behind detente.

Most durable elements of detente:

- expanding economic relations; capital and technology.
- Relations with China
- problems with US on nuclear, avoidance of war, SALT MBFR though searching for advantages thru this.

Sovs still pursuing military programs; less numbers more tech improvements.

Relationship with the Soviet Union is both Global and bilateral.

Soviet objectives vs the US and West

- Avoid War and ultimately reduce arms expenditure, while insuring military is strong.
- Develop Soviet economy through western credits and technology
- Neutralize NATO threat for Soviet security and for China
- Increase Soviet global influence and foster Western acceptance of USSR as world power
- Reduce US influence in areas of importance to USSR.

Sovs see detente policy as successful and yet it did not really interfere with other objective of control over its population and Eastern Europe.

Last year:--poor US performance in improving bilateral trade

- developments in world have tempted Sovs to take advantage (economic crisis in west, political scandals, left shift in Portugal, Greece--and Turkey's problems--affecting NATO)
- failure in Middle East, and VN & Cambodia
- Brezhnev's poor health has inhibited much Soviet initiatives.

Next year:--will push forward on CSCE, Salt II, Econ if no strings.

- Greater temptation for exploiting opportunities in Mid East, Nato etc.
 - And less willing to help US in difficulties.
- BUT Soviet realize there are risks.